

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1829

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF BELGIAN AND FRG AMBASSADORS' CONVERSATIONS
WITH PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT

REF: A) USNATO 1744; B) LISBON 1732

1. BELGIAN CHARGE (BAL) HAS DISTRIBUTED TO SYG LUNS AND TO
"OTHER PERMREPS WHO HAVE CONSULTED ON THE MATTER" AN ACCOUNT OF
THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR'S MARCH 27 CONVERSATION IN LISBON WITH
PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. FOLLOWING IS MISSION'S TRANSLATION
OF BELGIAN REPORT.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN LISBON WAS RECEIVED BY THE PRESI-
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DENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC ON MARCH 27 AT THE AMBASSADOR'S
REQUEST.

THE AMBASSADOR CONVEYED THE CONCERN THAT HAD ARISEN IN

BELGIUM AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL, AS WELL AS PRESS COMMENTARIES ON THESE EVENTS, AND THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES WISHED TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF THIS CONCERN. THE AMBASSADOR AT THE SAME TIME EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO HAVE A TOUR D' HORIZON WITH HIS INTERLOCUTOR, PARTICULARLY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY AND THE HOLDING OF THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

IN ANSWER TO THESE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC FIRST OF ALL EMPHASIZED HOW MUCH HE REGRETTED THE CONFUSION IN THE FOREIGN PRESS AND THE IMAGE OF PORTUGAL THAT THE PRESS WAS PRESENTLY GIVING.

THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT REMAINS DETERMINED TO SUPPORT PLURALIST DEMOCRACY. THE DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE APPEARED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN PORTUGAL'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE APRIL OF LAST YEAR, AND WHICH HAVE LED TO THE TAKING OF CERTAIN RADICAL POSITIONS WITHIN THE NEW REGIME, MEAN THAT THE AFM MUST CONTINUE ITS ACTIVITY. IT MUST, HOWEVER, BE NOTED THAT THIS INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE AFM'S ROLE IS TAKING PLACE WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH MAKE UP THE GOVERNMENT COALITION.

THE AFM INTENDS THAT THE SCHEDULED ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE NORMALLY ON APRIL 25. EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE SO THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN A CALM ATMOSPHERE, AND THE FORCES OF ORDER SEEM CAPABLE OF ALLOWING THE GOAL TO BE REACHED.

AFTER THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR HAD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON THESE VARIOUS POINTS, THE PRESIDENT CONFIRMED THAT, FOR GEOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL REASONS, PORTUGAL DOES NOT INTEND TO TURN ITS BACK ON THE WEST.

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IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN A VERY FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE, THE PRESIDENT OF PORTUGAL EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT HIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION, AS WELL AS OVER THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION.

END TEXT

2. FRG DEL HAS ALSO CIRCULATED A REPORT ON FRG AMBASSADOR TO LISBON'S MARCH 26 CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. REPORT FOLLOWS CLOSELY ACCOUNT IN REF B AND PROVIDES NO NEW INFORMATION.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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